

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* strains selected from the group consisting of H1791 (VTT C-98298, DSM 12213), H1795 (VTT C-98300, DSM 12214), H1803 (VTT C-98302, DSM 12215), H2193 (VTT C-99317, DSM 12722), H2195 (VTT C-99320, DSM 12723) and H2222 (VTT C-99322, DSM 12724).

26. (Previously Presented) *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* strains selected from the group consisting of H2369 (VTT C-99323, DSM 12725) and H2370 (VTT C-99324, DSM 12726).

27-42. (Cancelled).

43. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing yield of ethanol produced during a microbial production process comprising the steps of:

(a) transforming a host microorganism selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces* spp. and *Schizosaccharomyces* spp. with one or more polynucleotides encoding an enzyme to produce a transformed microorganism, wherein said enzyme is selected from the group consisting of NAD-dependent glutamate dehydrogenase, and malic enzyme, wherein the host microorganism carries the genes for xylose reductase and xylitol dehydrogenase enzymes and

(b) culturing the transformed microorganism to produce ethanol,
thereby increasing the yield of ethanol when compared to the yield of ethanol when produced in a microorganism that has not been transformed according to step (a).

44. (Cancelled).

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein ethanol is produced in an amount that is at least 5 % higher than the amount produced in a microorganism that has not been transformed according to step (a).

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the ethanol is produced from carbohydrate.

47-68. (Cancelled).

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein said carbohydrate is at least one selected from the group consisting of glucose and xylose.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the host microorganism is *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 43, wherein the host microorganism is *Schizosaccharomyces pombe*.

72. (Cancelled).

73. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43 ~~claim 72~~, wherein the host microorganism carries ~~is a yeast strain carrying~~, in addition, the gene for xylulose kinase.